

REMARKS

Claim 1-7, 10-19 and 43-51 are pending. Claims 1, 10, 16 and 44 are amended.
Claims 8, 9 and 11 are canceled.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 10 for improper antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claim 10 to correct the informality.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has stated in the Office Action mailed 3/10/2006 (page 10) claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended Claim 10 to include the limitations of claim 11 and canceled claim 11. The Examiner has allowed claims 43 and 51.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 10, 12-15 and 44-45 and 48-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Sugiyama et al. (US 2003/0227036) in view of Yeo et al. (US 2005/0035415). The Examiner has also rejected claim 6-9, 16-19, 46-47 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama et al and Yeo in view of Liu et al. (US 2004/0195624).

Claims 1, 16, 44

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 16, and 44 to specify the semiconductor capping layer/silicon film is formed thicker on the top surface of said semiconductor body than on the sidewalls of said semiconductor body. Independent claims 1, 16 and 44 thereby include at least the limitations of allowed claim 51. Applicant submits claims 2-7, 17-19, 45-50, as dependents upon one of the independent claims 1, 16 or 44, are also allowable for at least the same reason as the base claims. On this basis, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of claims 1-7, 16-19, and 44-50.

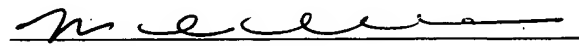
Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the amendments set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome and the present application is in condition for allowance.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 6/8/06



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